



## red shiner

*Cyprinella lutrensis*

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Kingdom:         | Animalia               |
| Division/Phylum: | Chordata - vertebrates |
| Class:           | Osteichthyes           |
| Family:          | Cypriniformes          |
| Order:           | Cyprinidae             |

### Features

The red shiner is flattened side to side. The mouth is at the tip of the snout. Its lateral line (sensory organ on the side of the fish) curves downward. The back is olive green with silvery sides and a white belly. The edges of the scales on the back and upper sides are darker, making a diamond pattern. The spawning male has a pinkish body with a steely blue back and bright red on the top of the head. A bluish crescent appears on the sides in front of the pelvic fins, the dorsal fin is black, and the other fins turn orange or red. Tubercles (bumps) appear on the head and snout. Like other native minnows, it has no scales on the head and the soft dorsal fin has fewer than 10 rays.

### Natural History

The red shiner is found throughout the Missouri, Des Moines, and Skunk River drainages and the lower reaches of the Iowa and Cedar River systems. It eats aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. It is a pioneer

species, moving into new, disturbed, or marginal habitat where other fish are rare. It spawns from May through August.

### Habitats

interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

statewide except the northern portion of the Des Moines Lobe

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.